# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# RURAL DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:899
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Ground Water Recharge under MGNREGS
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to run supplementary programmes to improve the condition of ponds, desiltation of ponds and digging up of wells under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to recharge the ground water across the country including Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated and released by the Government in the budget for this programme, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;

(c) whether the Bawaris built in the ancient ages and other natural resources have also been included under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): In current financial year, 2016-17, a national target of constructing 5 lakh Farm Ponds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been kept.
However, to recharge the ground water across the country including Rajasthan, in addition to farm ponds, other types of works, given below are being taken up under MGNREGA.

(i) Water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment and improve groundwater like underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams, check dams with special focus on recharging ground water including drinking water sources;

(ii) Watershed management works such as contour trenches, terracing, contour bunds, boulder checks, gabion structures and spring shed development resulting in a comprehensive treatment of a watershed;

(iii) Micro and minor irrigation works and creation, renovation and maintenance of irrigation canals and drains;

(iv) Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of irrigation tanks and other water bodies;

(v) Improving productivity of lands of households specified in Paragraph 5 through land development and by providing suitable infrastructure for irrigation including dug wells, and other water harvesting structures;

(b): The fund allotment and release by the Government in the budget under MGNREGA, is not programme/ project wise, but as per the agreed to labour budget.

(c)&(d): Yes, Bawaris built in the ancient ages and other natural resources are included under MGNREGA, under the head, "Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of irrigation tanks and other water bodies"

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